

That paper does not include some the some moths listed below because I regarded them to be of pretty general occurrence (as I still do) or because they had already been given mention in the Duddington and Johnson (1983). Their status coding is of course a recent innovation.

Reference

Duddington, J. and Johnson, R., 1983. *The Butterflies and Larger Moths of Lincolnshire*. Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.

OBITUARY

Thomas Cecil Dunn BSc, MSc, MBE

It was with a feeling of great sadness and loss that the naturalists of the north of England learned of the death of Tom Dunn on Monday 21 July 1997.

Born on 8 January 1911 at Edmonsley, County Durham, Tom was the son of a Colliery Railwayman who worked at Pelton Fell, Co. Durham, at that time a large railway junction. It was from the nameplate of one of the small shunting engines on this railway that Tom received his middle name of Cecil. After a basic junior school education Tom won a free place to Chester-le-Street Secondary School (now a Grammar School). Without this, Tom would not have had a higher education as his parents would not have been able to afford the fees. An additional award enabled him to stay at school where he obtained his Higher School Certificates. A further grant partially financed his place at University. The remaining money for his education coming from his violin accompaniment of silent films at local cinemas.

He went on to take a "first" in Botany at Hatfield College in 1932. In this he was in a class of one as Botany was a new subject in the curriculum. After leaving university during the depression, he held a series of temporary teaching posts and obtained further qualifications by way of a City and Guilds Diploma in Woodwork and Engineering Drawing. He found a permanent post shortly before the Second World War at Blaydon, teaching the unemployed men and boys woodwork.

He served with the RAF between 1939 and 1945 installing radio equipment into aircraft.

His marriage at the beginning of the War to Marjory Jude was to produce a son, Alec and a daughter Judith. Tragically his wife passed away whilst still young in 1960. From 1945 to 1971 he taught at the Chester-le-Street Grammar School, initially as a woodwork instructor, and in later years as the biology teacher. His interest in natural history dates from his early schooldays when he collected snails. This initial interest expanded into his lifelong study of botany and entomology.

He joined the Northern Naturalists Union, a confederation of local natural history societies, in 1945 and became assistant editor of *The Vasculum* under his mentor J. W. Heslop-Harrison in July 1963, and then editor in April 1967 on Heslop-Harrison's death; he retained this position until December 1990. A leader of many of the field trips organised by local natural history societies he was constantly asked to identify various "finds". This ability led to him becoming a television personality in BBC television's *Looks Natural* programme in the 1970s.



Thomas Cecil Dunn BSc, MSc, MBE, 1911 - 1997

Photo: Courtesy of North of England Newspapers (Westminster Press Ltd)

Tom was one of the first in the country to operate a Rothamstead Light Trap which was in continuous use in his garden for many decades. For many years he identified the captures of not only his own light trap, but from several others in both counties. He wrote articles for both local and national natural history publications. One of his minor achievements but one which gave him much satisfaction was the detection of the Purple Hairstreak Butterfly *Quercusia quercus* L. on the Scottish island of Colonsay in 1964, but his over-riding interest was in the more localised recording of the plants and insects of Northumberland and Durham. Many of his botanical records found their way into the recently published "Floras" of both counties. The Lepidoptera records he obtained from Co. Durham were combined with

those of Dr. Jim Parrack from Northumberland in a joint publication entitled *The Moths and Butterflies of Northumberland and Durham* issued in two parts as Supplements to *The Vasculum* in 1986 (Macrolepidoptera) and 1992 (Microlepidoptera). For many years prior to the publication of these volumes, a visitor to his home would find the living room table covered with small boxes containing specimens awaiting identification, a file of record cards and his binocular microscope at the ready. His two greenhouses bulged with his large collection of cacti and every visitor was treated to a tour of the garden.

A tireless worker for conservation and in the formation of the Northumberland and Durham Trusts and later the Durham Wildlife Trust his efforts in this field were recognised in 1979 by Durham University, who awarded him an honorary MSc. He was further honoured for his "services to Nature Conservation" when the then Nature Conservancy Council forwarded his name for a proposed MBE. This award was announced in the 1987 Birthday Honours List and he went to Buckingham Palace to be presented to the Queen, a meeting of which he was extremely but quietly proud. A non-smoker and teetotaller Tom was a very fit person and at the age of 72 years climbed Red Pike in the Lake District, a task that would daunt many a younger man. Even in his early eighties he could be seen every day taking his afternoon "constitutional" with his dog which invariably led him to his favourite localities at either Waldrige Fell or Hermitage Woods.

From very humble beginnings he rose through his own endeavours to be one of the most knowledgeable and respected of naturalists and he was certainly the finest microlepidopterist produced by the north of England this century. He had a quiet natural authority, and when he spoke people listened and learnt from what he said. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word.

In 1995 he gifted his collections and those of T. Ashton Lofthouse and J.W. Heslop-Harrison, along with his record cards, to the Sunderland Museum. His departure from our presence leaves a void which will be very difficult, if not impossible, to fill.

Harry T.Eales

An appeal for invertebrate specimens

At the De Montfort University we are building up a reference collection of named invertebrates to be used in the teaching of students. We are particularly seeking insect specimens. Undated specimens are acceptable. If you are able to help, please send specimens direct or telephone to discuss our needs in more detail on 01162 551551.— K.M. STEWART, Department of Biological Sciences, De Montfort University, Scraftoft Campus, Leicester LE7 9SU.